

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083866

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, SA

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA

REFS: (A) JIDDA 2498, (B) COMDT AFSC NORFOLK VA 261400Z
MAR 76

1. YOUR MESSAGE ON HIGH LEVEL MILITARY VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA COMES JUST AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE BEING ASKED TO CLEAR THE VISIT OF A DOD TEAM, HEADED BY R. ADM. J.A. DENTON, WHICH PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 22-MAY 5. PURPOSE IS TO CONDUCT A SURVEY, AT SAUDI REQUEST, FOR THE CREATION OF A SAUDI ARABIAN JOINT STAFF COLLEGE. ADMIRAL DENTON, WHO IS COMMANDANT OF ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE IN NORFOLK, WOULD PLAN TO REMAIN IN SAUDI ARABIA ONLY BETWEEN APRIL 22-25 AND LEAVE THE TEAM THERE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK. THIS SURVEY IS BEING FUNDED BY THE SAUDIS AND HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF MESSAGES FOR THE PAST YEAR TO USMTM AND EMBASSY (SEE FOR EXAMPLE REF B). ADMIRAL DENTON PLANS TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND
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AVIATION OFFICIALS, THE SAUDI SERVICES CHIEF, AND MATERIEL

SCHOOLS COMMAND OFFICIALS. WE WILL ALSO PROBABLY VISIT
JIDDA TO BRIEF EMBASSY.

2. IN VIEW OF STRONG SAUDI INTEREST IN OUR CONDUCTING SUR-
VEY TO ESTABLISH A JOINT SAUDI ARABIAN STAFF COLLEGE AND

BECAUSE VISIT DEALS WITH TRAINING RATHER THAN POLICY
ISSUES, WE FEEL THE VISIT SHOULD BE APPROVED. KISSINGER

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